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ABSTRACT

This booklet presents a sentence dictation test designed to find which of the most commonly used words students need to learn how to spell. The 34 sentences that comprise the test in the booklet can be used for systematic spelling instruction in first or second grade and in upper-grade remedial classes. The test in the booklet can also be used to screen students quickly in third grade and higher by choosing only a few of the 34 sentences. (RS)

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A Sentence Dictation Test That Includes Over 300 of the Most Commonly Used Words

by

Don McCabe

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AVKO "Great Idea"
Reprint Series #607

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A Sentence Dictation Test
That Includes
Over 300 of the
Most Commonly Used Words

by

Don McCabe

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What is AVKO?

AVKO is a non-profit tax-exempt membership organization founded in 1974 that is:

- subsidized by donations and grants.
- open to membership to anyone interested in helping others learn to read and write.
- run by members from as far away as Hawaii and Quebec and whose daily operations are handled by volunteers.
- planning to build and operate a model reading research center in a YEAR-AROUND **camp** setting that would economically and efficiently service the needs of dyslexics of all ages.
- trying to spread the concept that parent and spouse tutoring in spelling/reading skills can be successfully taught in adult community education classes and that members of a problem reader's support group can greatly assist the efforts of any volunteer tutor working in the literacy movement.
- providing newsletters and economical opportunities to pursue individual research projects and to take part in large scale cooperative research projects that have immediate practical applications.
- attempting to accomplish these goals primarily through the profits generated by the inservices, workshops and the sale of materials developed for the special needs of students, parents, and adults – but AVKO still needs donations to survive.

A Sentence Dictation Test That Covers Over 300 of the Most Commonly Used Words

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

1. Tell the student/s that this test is NOT for grading purposes. Tell the student/s that the test is to help you find which of the most commonly used words the student/s need to learn. Tell them that it is far more important to MASTER the spellings of these words, words like of, it, you, in, out, than it is to try to learn the spellings of words they can look up in the dictionary, words like separate, mortgage, and financial.

2. Read the sentences normally. Repeat them as many times as necessary.

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS:

For QUICK class screening of those in grades three and up who need special help in spelling

You don't need to bore the bright students and torture those with severe spelling problems by giving *all* of the 34 sentences. **Pick any five sentences**. Those who miss three or more need special help. Those who score perfectly probably don't.

For SYSTEMATIC spelling instruction in first or second grade and in upper grade remedial classes.

Give one sentence a week. Any word missed must go on a special student WORDS-TO-BE-MASTERED SHEET. To be considered mastered, a word must be correctly spelled on five CONSECUTIVE occasions when the student had no opportunity to "CRAM" for the "test."

Dictation Sentences

1. What is your name?

2. Do you like to eat apple pie?

3. Boys will be boys, and girls will be girls.

4. I like the colors brown, blue, yellow and red.

5. Some children have fun playing with cats and dogs.

6. Would you please help me find my pet rabbit after school?

7. Did she see my mother go into the house?

8. Once again it is time to pick apples off the trees.

9. The baby looked around and saw three pretty little kittens.

10. Cows and horses live on farms.

11. In a very few days her father will come home.

12. Could you stop by and show me your toy boat?

13. When we were eating, a man came in and sat down at our table.

14. Who said that workers just love to work for a living?

15. They took their time putting their toys away

16. So tell me, can you buy a doll for a dime?

17. The first thing to do is to let me look at your work.

18. Wouldn't you know that this is getting harder all the time.

19. You are doing just fine.

20. If I say jump, my dog just sits.

21. How are you doing? Are you finding out that you can spell?

22. If he gets here in time, he can ride the black horse.

23. That girl knows more about houses than most people do.

24. She likes it a lot where she lives.

25. Finding homes for rabbits is not easy.

26. Making a living is hard work.

27. A cow never jumped over the moon.

28. About all that I am after is a big piece of pie.

29. Knowing how to do something isn't the same as doing it.

30. Soon it will be time to go home.

31. No, it's not time to go right now.

32. It makes me mad to see books all over the place.

33. They went away last year.

34. We really had a good time, but we couldn't wait to get back.

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